



Provider Chronicles

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION

25 DECEMBER 2006

A TIME TO REFLECT: PROVIDER 6

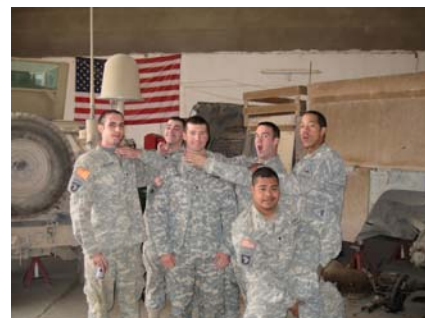
Dear Providers, Frohe Weihnachten und ein Glückliches Neues Jahr (Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year)! Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, and commitment to our battalion, the Ready First Combat Team, and, more importantly, to each other.

Our families and friends have given us wonderful support with all of the Christmas packages, decorations, treats, and thoughtful comfort items. On the 4th of December, we took a moment to start the holiday season by lighting the Brigade Christmas tree - we all thought of our families and friends who were with us at this time last year and with whom we will soon be reunited in late February 2007. Around the battalion, I see that each company and section decorated their areas with a little extra touch to

brighten up the place; you all definitely have spread the holiday spirit.

As individuals and families, each of us has experienced ups and downs over the past year. We all have faced adversity with courage, both at home and here in Iraq, and have smiled with pride at our accomplishments. Although this past year has not been easy and for some of us very difficult, each of us should be proud of how we overcame those challenges that confronted us. As you approach the holiday season and 2007, take the time to reflect on 2006. We all have aspirations or set goals for ourselves at the beginning of each year. So, how did you do for 2006? Most of us usually fall a little short of the sometimes aggressive goals we set for ourselves each year.

Nevertheless, the most important aspect of a goal is the will and commitment you invest attempting to reach that goal rather than to do nothing at all. Therefore, I challenge each of you to set your resolutions for 2007 and to attain them as magnificently as you have performed over the past year in support of combat operations here in Iraq or on the homefront. Cheers.



HOLIDAY WISHES FROM PROVIDER 7

Hello Providers! First and foremost, allow me to wish each and every Soldier along with their family, a memorable and blissful Holiday Season while crowning it with a joyous and prosperous New Year.

My heart goes out to the Provider Family for all the terrific support and hardships you endure on a daily basis. I am so amazed by the collective quality of your work and the commitment to excellence that is revealed by your daily actions. I sincerely pass on that it is truly an honor

to be associated with all of you. So, thank you for your expert Soldiering as witnessed and glorified by all of your triumphant accomplishments during the rigors of warfare. Thank you for supporting your fellow Soldier.

I think it is important to let everybody know that the 501st Forward Support Battalion is leading the Brigade in Reenlistments for FY 07 by completing nearly 80% of our annual goal within the first 11 weeks of this fiscal year. It's hard to top 100%, but the Charlie Company Cobra's have done just that as they lead the way for reenlistments early on and have already

exceeded their FY 07 annual mission.

Kudos go out to all the Soldiers who have raised their hands and vowed to support and defend the constitution of the United States; there is no greater commitment nor greater sacrifice than serving your country and especially during these perilous times which have been brought on by terrorism. I salute you for your courage and spirit of patriotism made known by your extended service obligation. Hooah!

Alpha Company: Everyone is Jolly and Gator!



PFC Smith and SPC Abon love on the fueler

Happy holidays friends and family members of the Alpha Company Gators! Although Iraq is a far from ideal place for us to celebrate Christmas, our Soldiers seem to have the Christmas spirit here in the desert. Thanks to our FRG and the creative minds of these troops, we have Christmas trees, stockings and various decorations around the area that makes this place a more pleasant home-away-from-home over the holidays.



A tire is no match for PFC Pieschel, who benched 385 earlier in the week



The DFAC Crew pose by their Family Wall

This month Ms. James was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer Two and several of the Soldiers reenlisted, including: SGT Alvear, SPC Martin, SPC Hill, SPC Teodoro, SPC Knoxward and SPC Randle. The Soldiers continued to set the standard by completing their direct support mission and getting the Ready First Combat Team the supplies they need to stay in the fight. We also conducted a beneficial night fire range and zero range, as the Soldiers' confidence with their weapons continuously strengthens.



SSG Workman sees a mouse! Or not. . .



CW2 James celebrates her promotion by reenlisting SPC Knoxward and SPC Teodoro

The DFAC has planned a special meal for Christmas Day, and the Company will enjoy a talent show from our troops that evening. Time is winding down, and everyone is well aware that we will be reunited with our loved ones really soon.

Our prayers go out to SGT Love and her family as we all mourn the loss of her husband, SSG Robert Love. God bless!



SFC Marrs gives pointers to SPC Adams on the night fire range.



Left: SPC Griffin decorates the tree
Right: SSG Moore and SPC Sherrod work it in the SSA



Bravo Company Blacksmiths Rock the Holidays!

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all our Blacksmith loved ones!!!!

It's hard to believe that November has come and gone and that it's already half way through the month of December. As Christmas nears, know that our thoughts are always with you, and know that there isn't one Blacksmith who doesn't wish that they could be with their families and loved ones for the holidays.

The company continues to conduct maintenance and security operations for the RFCT. Their hard work and dedication impresses me everyday; the hundreds of equipment services and completed maintenance jobs keep the RFCT mission ready at all times. My soldiers, your loved ones, are truly doing an amazing job here in Ramadi.

For some us, this will be our first Christmas without snow, for some of us, this will be our first time away from our families for the holidays, but I'm confident that we will get through this, just like we have had to do so many times before. Just like we did for Thanksgiving, we will do what we can to bring a little bit of

cheer here to Ramadi. In loom of the holidays, the company participated in the brigade's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, and a Holiday television commercial that will soon be aired on your TV's back home. Blacksmith soldier's also decorated a company tree and will soon be able to take part in a company party.

As many of you look forward to making your New Year's resolutions in 2007, we look forward to New Years 2007 because it means one month closer to being home. As we approach our return back to Germany, Blacksmith soldiers are receiving future assignments on a weekly basis. No matter the assignment though, I assure you, your loved ones just want to make it back to you!

The month of December has been a very productive time as far as Blacksmith awards and promotions. First, congratulations to those who were awarded the Combat Action Badge: CPT Owen, SFC Pickett, SGT Best, SGT Tamberg, SPC Durbin, SPC Gordillo, SPC Hartley, SPC McDonald, A., SPC Miller, D., SPC Petty, and PFC Guerrero. Secondly, the First Sergeant and I would like to

applaud the following soldiers on their promotions: PFC Marshall to SPC, PFC Wiesnet to SPC, and CPL Rost to SGT. As stated before, the Blacksmith's continue to distinguish themselves each and everyday. No matter how tough the mission, we truly do live up to our motto of providing the support, and supporting the fight.

We love you, we miss you, and we look forward to the day we return to you in Germany!

BLACKSMITHS!



Left: SPC Hartley, SPC Childers, PFC Guererro and SPC Commisso tidy up the shop before it closes



Happy Holidays from Cobra 6



1LT Byrne and "Budro Claus" share in the spirit of the season

To all of the Soldiers, spouses, and family members of Charlie Company, the command team would like to wish all of you "Happy Holidays!" I am very proud of all of you and as we approach the New Year, Soldiers please continue to remain focus and not complacent on the mission here in Ar. Ramadi. The Soldiers, Marines, and Coalition Forces are depending upon C/MED to successfully treat, package, and perform exceptional medical care throughout the remaining time of this deployment.

The upcoming year will focus on weapon's qualification, redeployment, and reintegration training as we set conditions for our Relief in Place (RIP) counterparts of Charlie Company, 3rd Brigade Support Battalion. It is my intent to complete a seamless RIP and successfully transfer all property prior to our departure from Camp Ramadi.

As the company commander for Charlie Company, I am proud of each Soldier, Marine, and Corpsman that supports the medical mission to save lives in our area of operation. Like our company motto says, "Every Second Counts" and it is true because Charlie Company is making and will continue to make new improvements daily to support the RFCT. Lastly, we thank all of the family members back home. Your love and dedication will never go unnoticed, and "WE" could not complete the mission if it were not for all of you during this holiday season!



Santa's Little Helpers: Headquarters Platoon



The Orderly Room Team



Evac Platoon Smiles after PMCSing Santa's Sleigh



Everyone in Treatment has been Good this Year!

Rhinos Have Been Good All Year!



Left: PFC Santana, PFC Barrows and SGT Guest smile with their AAM's

Right: The S4 Section requisition some holiday cheer



Merry Christmas to all Rhinos and Rhino Families! Thank you for the holiday ornaments. Yet again, we had a busy month, so let's recap:

CPL Gower received a well deserved promotion, so be sure to congratulate the new Sergeant. SGT Guest, PFC Barrows and PV2 Santana continued to improve the Class I Yard, and were recognized for their efforts by receiving impact Army Achievement Medals. SGT Hall, SGT Walter, 1LT Patton and 1SG Smith created a raised walkway in the HHC Headquarters area of operations...just in time for the rain. Their efforts have tremendously helped keep our offices relatively free of mud. SPC Robles, SSG Primo, SPC Taylor and all the Soldiers at the Forward Issue

Point were glad to see gravel finally arrive in their area. It's wonderful not having to daily combat the moon dust that once encompassed the Forward Issue Point. SSG Toder and SGT Matt have prepared our phones and internet to start running off a commercial network. SPC Owings, SGT Pendleton, SPC Sorrell and all of our cooks in TQ did an excellent job in decorating the dining facility for the holidays. They are really helping to keep everyone smiling. SGT Carson, PFC Pickney, SGT Wilson and all the HET crews remain prepared for any mission at any time. In the last month, they've run important missions to Hit and inside the city of Ramadi. SGT Andrews and SSG Taylor will soon start a new fuel re-supply mission in conjunction with the Civil

starting to feel a little bit like Christmas.

Thank you to everyone back home for sending us packages. MAJ Eldred received some amazing homemade fudge and caramel which I am proud to have sampled. SGT Botts, SPC Bryant and SPC King are doing an amazing job in sorting through the mountain of mail and ensuring we get all our packages as soon as they arrive.

As always, thank you to everyone back home for supporting us. We can't wait to see you again.

Rhino 6



Affairs Group. They're excited to get started. Finally, MSG Vallade sent a great Christmas Tree from TQ to Ramadi for the BN Staff. MAJ Rigsby has assembled the tree and it's really

MAJ Eldred and SFC Phipps congratulate the newest Sergeant in the Army: SGT Gower



PROVIDER SHOUT OUT SECTION!!!

Dear Annie and Ian,

Missing you both so very much! Counting down the days till I can hold both of you again. Life is about priorities and this place has cleared that up so well for me. Looking forward to making up for the missed holidays – can you say Christmas in February? Also, can't wait to go on leave so both of you get your bags packed now for Australia! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Liebe Kelly, Natalie und Annette,

ich wünsche euch alles, alles Gute zu Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins Neue Jahr. Ich vermisse euch sehr und kann es kaum erwarten bis ich wieder bei euch bin. Papa. Kelly, ild.



Daddy, well what can we say! We just want you to know that even though its christmas and you are getting us all these great things...they really dont mean that much without you!

O.K. right Mom made us say that, anyway we miss you so much. Nothing is the same and we are o.k. but are counting the days until you come home. We are so proud of what you and the other Soldiers are doing. Keep safe and know that you are thought of every day. Have a great Christmas and a Blessed New Year!!!! Dad- Hurry and come home I am tired of D.J. telling me what to do, he thinks he is the "Man of the house"!

Luv u Pamela

Dad- Hurry and come home, even though I am the "Man of the House" Mom keeps telling me shes the Boss...just like when u r here!

Love u D.J

Honey- I will let you be in charge for a while when you return! Be safe and cant wait to see you!

Lots of love and kisses Audrey

PROVIDER SHOUT OUT SECTION!!!



Merry Christmas Brian! I miss you. All of the little ways you've found to reach me here at home have brightened my days and made this year bearable. You are a wonderful husband and I am so very happy to be your wife. I am eager for your return so that we can make many more memories together. If you can believe it, I am more impatient for your homecoming than I am to open my Christmas presents. May you feel the warmth of my love with you today and everyday while we are apart. Amanda

To all the Food Service Personnel in 501st FSB,

I miss you all a lot. Please enjoy the Christmas gifts I have sent to all of you. Pendleton I hope you enjoyed the gum wrapper, Jones I sure hope the three cents helped you with your Christmas shopping, Sorrell and Lautenschlager stay glued to the hip and stay out of trouble, Owings and Hernandez please be good and keep your chins up, Probst congratulation on your soon to be baby boy he is growing, Canfield I hope all is going well with you and be safe, Santana I know this is your first Christmas away make the best of it, SGT Guest and SSG Doss make Christmas for all of our people the best you can. Enjoy yourselves I miss you all, please be SAFE.

SFC Palmieri

Johnny,

You are the living essence of all that is good about your generation. Your sense of duty and willingness to serve your country in face of those who would destroy all that we believe in is the embodiment of selfless sacrifice and dedication. Those of us who are on the sidelines gaze in awe with humility at what you have done. We will forever be in your debt. The Greatest Generation served in WWII to defeat a terrible threat to our freedom. You willingly serve to defeat the greatest threat to our entire civilization...we can never repay you for all you have done. Thank you just does not seem to mean enough but you must be thanked for your courage. Thank you. Our thoughts, prayers, and love are with you always. Stay safe.

Hank

Johnny, we want you to have a warm and wonderful holiday season. If not in reality then in your heart.

We miss you as we are putting ornaments on the tree because you always knew just right where to place them. The holidays are just not the same with you gone. We realize that duty calls and that you are protecting our country along with your fellow officers and men. The sacrifices you and your men are making now will not reveal themselves soon but in the months and years to come. Just know when you come home we will make up for lost time!

Dad and I love you with all of our hearts and in all of the world there could never be a son as wonderful, loving, giving as you. Our minds and hearts are over there with you son. I know it is hard and you have seen so much and I wish that you did not have to carry all of that with you day in and day out. We will REALLY celebrate when you return home, in the meantime try to find a moment to make a little Christmas, even if it is just to go outside and look up at the stars and know that we are thinking of you. Be safe and strong. Remember to jump into the New Year, cause it will be the best year ever when you come home. You're my heart son. Love, Mom and Dad

Love
Mom & Dad

PROVIDER SHOUT OUT SECTION!!!

Johnny- you are much better at putting your feelings into words, but I want to try to tell you now what is in my heart.

Almost 3 years ago, you swept me of my feet; neither of us knowing what lay ahead.

But while I have spent much of this time apart from you, my heart has grown "even fonder", and my love for you even deeper. Pride and patriotism aren't things we spent much time talking about, but along with the love that has grown, my sense of pride has matured- to the point of huge swells that bring me to tears. I have learned the true meaning of pride and how intense the feelings are when someone you love is making the sacrifices you have chosen to make.

It has actually helped me endure this time without you by my side. I feel as though I have put my heart and soul into making a home for us, and something good for you to come back to. While you are not feeling very much like celebrating this Holiday season, I will be celebrating for us both. Celebrating all that you are, all that we are, and all the time we have when you do get home. I love you.
Love Your Passion

Jenny,

If spending one Christmas without you this year means we'll have every Christmas together forever, then it has been worth it all.

Your fortitude during this difficult year amazes me, but doesn't surprise me. Your strength is one of many reasons why I chose you as my wife.

I love you with all of my heart and soul.

Merry Christmas, Passion

- Johnny



Dearest Raymond: I love you and miss you very much. I wish I could help you celebrate your birthday guess I'll have to have your bier too... it'll be difficult, but I'll do my best! Enjoy your special Christmas in Ramadi and Taqqadum with your folks The Christmas decorations and lights at our house will still be here when you get home. Neighbor Roy has already provided a big bottle of German Sekt for your arrival. I know you are a great officer and leader, as well as a harda** at times. Remain vigilant as your visit to Iraq draws to the end and the excitement builds for the redeployment. I want you home safe and sound and in one piece. I love thinking and planning our future together, but I know the reintegration period will be a little rough at times. You've seen and experienced some really terrible things that you will probably always remember. We just need to work together to become one again and begin the healing process of love.



You are my man and I will always love you deeply and passionately with all my heart and soul. Merry Christmas and Happy Birthday, Sweetheart.

Smooches, Ann



To the best Damn 42 Soldiers in the Army. I am so proud of all of you!